

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 662

By Kyle

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Martha Ellen Maxwell of Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Martha Ellen Maxwell; and

WHEREAS, Martha Ellen Maxwell worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens as a tireless advocate for the arts in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, instrumental in saving the Orpheum theater and the Levitt Shell, Mrs. Maxwell was the president and executive director of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra from 1993 to 2003; during her tenure, the Memphis Symphony Orchestra experienced significant growth and moved from Ellis Auditorium to Christ United Methodist Church, then Eudora Baptist Church, and finally to the Cannon Center; and

WHEREAS, Martha Ellen Maxwell was the first executive director of Memphis in May, playing a key role in the launching of the Sunset Symphony, and was the former executive director of Arts in the Park and the Film, Tape and Music Commission, a precursor to the Memphis and Shelby County Film and Television Commission; and

WHEREAS, for three decades, Martha Ellen Maxwell hosted the popular program, *Know Your Score*, a cable television talk show that she created to highlight music in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated patron of the arts, Martha Ellen Maxwell raised funds for many nonprofit groups, including Dixon Gallery and Gardens, and secured a Tennessee Arts Commission grant for the New Ballet Ensemble & School; and

WHEREAS, Martha Ellen Maxwell was an active and devout member of Idlewild Presbyterian Church; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Maxwell was preceded in death by her husband, John Rex Maxwell, and her son, Robert Maxwell, and she will be dearly missed by her sons, John R. Maxwell Jr., Tom Maxwell, and David Maxwell, and numerous grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Martha Ellen Maxwell leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that his General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Martha Ellen Maxwell, reflecting fondly upon her stalwart support of the arts and her commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Maxwell.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.